

**AMENDMENTS**

**A. IN THE SPECIFICATION:**

On page 1, under the "Cross Reference to Related Applications," please insert the following replacement paragraph for the related application information:

*a*  
This application claims priority under 35 U.S.C. §120 as a continuation-in-part of U.S. Patent Application Serial No. 09/894,956, filed June 27, 2001, which is a continuation-in-part of U.S. Patent Application Serial No. 09/790,321, filed February 21, 2001, which is a divisional of U.S. Patent Application Serial No. 09/687,219, filed October 12, 2000, which is a continuation-in-part of U.S. Patent Application Serial No. 09/636,778, filed August 11, 2000, which is a continuation of U.S. Patent Application Serial No. 09/098,206, filed June 16, 1998, now U.S. Patent No. 6,174,673, which is a continuation-in-part of U.S. Patent Application Serial No. 08/876,276, filed June 16, 1997; this application also claims priority under 35 U.S.C. §120 as a continuation-in-part of U.S. Patent Application Serial No. 09/738,871, filed December 14, 2000, which is a continuation-in-part of U.S. Patent Application Serial No. 09/685,432, filed October 10, 2000, which is a continuation in part of U.S. Patent Application Serial No. 09/444,112, filed November 22, 1999; which is a continuation-in-part of U.S. Patent Application Serial No. 09/098,206, filed June 16, 1998, now U.S. Patent No. 6,174,673, which is a continuation-in-part of U.S. Patent Application Serial No. 08/876,276, filed June 16, 1997; this application also claims priority under 35 U.S.C. §120 as a continuation-in-part of U.S. Patent Application Serial No. 09/894,956, filed June 27, 2001, which is a continuation-in-part of U.S. Patent Application Serial No. 09/790,321, filed February 21, 2001, which is a divisional of U.S. Patent Application Serial No. 09/687,219, filed October 12, 2000, which is a continuation in part of U.S. Patent Application Serial No. 09/444,112, filed November 22, 1999; which is a continuation-in-part of U.S. Patent Application Serial No. 09/098,206, filed June 16, 1998, now U.S. Patent No. 6,174,673, which is a continuation-in-part of U.S. Patent Application Serial No. 08/876,276,

In re Application of:

Short et al.

Application No.: 09/975,036

Filed: October 10, 2001

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PATENT

Attorney Docket No.: DIVER1280-17

*a!*  
*ent* filed June 16, 1997 the contents of which are all incorporated by reference in their entirety

herein.

On page 123, under the heading "3. Development of a mating protocol in a microtiter plate format," please delete the last sentence, "These initial data...technique fully."